(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure observance of punctuality in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, 18.7% trains have not been able to maintain punctuality due to inclement weather, track repair, late arrival of linked trains and its chain effect and equipment failures etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the last one year, three employees have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

(e) The steps being taken to improve the punctuality are as under:—

(a) track renewal work;

(b) closer and intensive monitoring of trains;

(c) improvement in maintenance of rolling stock.

Functioning of South Western Railway Zone

1997. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the South Western Railway Zone is going to be functional;

(b) where would the Headquarters of the Zone be located; and

(c) why Government are delaying establishment of the Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (c) The Zones have been planned to be set up in a phased manner over a period of five years.

(b) A decision has been taken that the Headquarter of South Western Railway Zone shall now be at Hubli.

माल-भाड़े में रियायत

1998. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चालू वर्ष में माल-ढुलाई के निर्धारित लक्ष्य को प्राप्त न किये जाने को ध्यान में रखते हुए ढुलाई को बढ़ावा देने के लिए रेलवे ने माल-भाड़े में रियायतों की घोषणा की थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन मदों पर कितनी रियायतें देना तय किया है; और

(ग) इन रियायतों के फलस्वरूप इस वर्ष के दौरान कितना वित्तीय घाटा होने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) जी हां। रेलों ने रेलवे की ओर अधिक यातायात आकर्षित करने के लिए वाल्यूम डिस्काउंट स्कीम और कतिपय अन्य रियायतों की घोषणा की है। ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है:

(i) वित्त वर्ष के पहले छह महीनों की तुलना में वर्ष 1998-99 के उत्तरार्ध के लिए वाल्यूम डिस्काउंट स्कीम के अंतर्गत सीमेंट, लोहा एवं इस्पात, लौह अयस्क, स्पंज लोहे और क्लिंकर के संबंध में प्राप्त होने वाले वर्धमान यातायात पर निर्धारित शर्तें पूरी करने पर 10 प्रतिशत की छूट।

(ii) हाल ही में दक्षिण और पश्चिम रेलवे के महाप्रबंधकों को उनकी रेलों पर प्राप्त होने वाले गैर-कार्यक्रमबद्ध आयातित कोयले के यातायात पर निर्धारित शर्तें पूरी करने पर मालभाड़े में 10 प्रतिशत तक छूट देने के लिए प्राधिकृत किया गया है।

(iii) क्षेत्रीय रेलों के महाप्रबंधकों को वाणिज्यिक आधार पर इस प्रयोजनार्थ निर्धारित मानदण्डों के अनुसार स्टेशन से स्टेशन घटी

हुई दरें कोट करने के लिए भी प्राधिकृत किया गया है।

(ग) ये रियायतें विपणन नीति के रूप में अधिक यातायात आकर्षित करने और अतिरिक्त आमदनी जुटाने के लिए शुरू की गई हैं।

Railway Zone in Kerala

1999. SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the basis on which the seven new Railway Zones were selected;

(b) why the Ministry has constantly neglected the development of Railways in Kerala, even though passengers emanating from Kerala abide by the law and take tickets and are the highest per capita contributor to the Railways; and

(c) whether the Minister will consider setting up of a new Railway Zone in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): .(a) New zones were set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/ administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. Taking the various factors into consideration, the Government had decided to set up 7 new zones.

(b) No, Sir. Kerala has not been neglected.

The following developmental works in Kerala are in progress:—

New Lines

(i) Kottayam-Erumeli (To be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained).

(ii) Angamali/Sabarimala

(iii) Kuttipuram-Guruvayur

Gauge Conversion

(i) Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar

Doubling

(i) Quilon-Thiruvananthapuram

(ii) Kuttipuram-Calicut

(iii) Calicut-Mangalore

(iv) Ernakulam-Ernakulam Marshalling Yard.

Railway Electrification

(i) Walyar-Ernakulam (Work in progress)

(ii) Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram (To be taken up after necessary clearance have been obtained.)

(c) It is not feasible to set up a Zonal Office in Kerala.

Cut in Wagon Order

2000. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there has not been any cut in the wagon orders for 1998-99 for Messrs. H.D.C. and Modern Industries, inspite of the cut on other manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. However, a quantity of 199 nos. (297.5 in terms of four wheelers) have been frozen against order of 125 nos. Open wagons with 'K' type brake block (BOXN 'K') on Hindustan Development Corporation.